

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the reasons that follow.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented with appropriately defined status identifiers.

Claims 65 and 66 are currently amended. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 39, 40, 42-50 and 65-67 will remain pending in the application.

The amendment to claim 65 merely removes a member from the Markush group. The amendment to claim 66 converts the claim into independent form, as suggested by the PTO on pages 3-4 of the Action.

Because the foregoing amendments do not introduce new matter, entry thereof by the PTO is respectfully requested.

Cross-reference data in the specification

Paragraph [0001] of the specification, which contains cross-references to earlier-filed applications, has been amended to supply a missing U.S. patent application serial number. Applicants respectfully request that the PTO amend the “Related U.S. Application Data” on the cover of the publication of the instant application, U.S. 2004/0142015, to correspond to the cross-reference data in amended paragraph [0001].

Claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On pages 2-3, the PTO rejects claims 65 and 67 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. 5,962,620 to Reich *et al.* (“Reich”). The PTO asserts that Reich teaches the claimed device in which the primer region comprises a polyisocyanate.

Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. However, solely to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have amended claim 65 to remove the member “polyisocyanates” from the Markush group, thereby rendering the rejection moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim rejections for double patenting

On pages 3-4, claims 65 and 67 are rejected for non-statutory, obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being not patentably distinct from claims 24 and 25 of U.S. Pat. 6,790,228 and claims 11 and 12 of U.S. Pat. 6,908,624.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the double patenting rejections. However, solely to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have filed terminal disclaimers with this Reply. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

Claim objection

On page 4, the PTO objects to claim 66 for depending from a rejected base claim. The PTO states that claim 66 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim ...,” and suggests that “the limitations of claim 66 be imported into claim 65 ...” Applicants have amended claim 66 in accordance with the amendment suggested by the PTO, thereby rendering the objection moot. Thus, claim 66 is now allowable.

Conclusion

The present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The PTO is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1850. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 07-1850. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1850.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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